

# City Manager's Spotlight



**From the desk of City Manager Teresa Wilson**

## **CITY MANAGER'S SPOTLIGHT ON MARCH 2014**

The purpose of the City Manager's Spotlight is to provide details about what is happening in the City and to stay connected with the community. The City Manager's Spotlight on March 2014, reflects information about operations during the winter storm, an update on the Police Chief Search and additional City highlights and accomplishments.

### **INTRODUCTION OF THE NEW POLICE CHIEF**

The City of Columbia hosted an Introduction Ceremony for the new Police Chief on Friday, March 21 at Police Headquarters, located at 1 Justice Square. Mayor Steve Benjamin, City Council members, City Manager Teresa Wilson, Police Chief Search Committee members, Police Chief Search Community Stakeholders Panel, Law Enforcement Officials, Community Leaders and City staff were in attendance to welcome Chief William "Skip" Holbrook.



"I have been very impressed with Chief Holbrook personally and his remarkable career of accomplishments and I have no doubt that he will continue that record here," stated Mayor Steve Benjamin. "He can count on my full support and I look forward to working with him to make sure the men and women of the Columbia Police Department have everything they need to make ours a truly safe city."

Chief Holbrook will be sworn in as Columbia's new Police Chief on April, 11, 2014.

*“I am proud to welcome Chief Holbrook to the City of Columbia and look forward to working with him, the command staff and the men and women of the Columbia Police Department to take our public safety operations to the next level. Through Chief Holbrook’s guidance, we will begin a new era of integrity and strong leadership in the Office of the Chief.”*

*~ City Manager Teresa Wilson*

The Columbia Police Department is comprised of 407 sworn officers and 91 non-sworn personnel for a total of 498 employees.

“I am committed to operational transparency in everything we will do at the Columbia Police Department. Transparency and accountability are imperative for ensuring public trust,” said Chief Holbrook. “Together, our officers, citizens, city management, the mayor and council and our partnering agencies will find lasting solutions and build a world-class police department and a world-class city.”



(L-R) City Manager Teresa Wilson, Chief William “Skip” Holbrook and his wife, Michelle.

- For more details regarding the Introduction Ceremony held for Chief Holbrook on Friday, March 21, 2014, click [HERE](#).

## COMMUNITY RECEPTION AND SWEARING-IN CEREMONY FOR NEW CHIEF OF POLICE

- The Community Reception for Chief William “Skip” Holbrook will be held on Thursday, April 10 from 5 – 6:30 p.m. at Coble Plaza, 211 Gervais St (behind EdVenture Children’s Museum).
- The official swearing-in ceremony for the City’s new Chief of Police will be held in Council Chambers at City Hall, 1737 Main St., on April 11 at 11 a.m. Parking for the ceremony will be available at the Cannon Garage, located at 1227 Taylor St. Shuttle service will be provided to City Hall starting at 9:30 a.m. on April 11.

## AMERICAN HEART WALK – HEART OF THE CITY

- Thank you to everyone who participated in the Heart of the City team on behalf of the City of Columbia for the Midland’s Heart Walk on Saturday, March 22. The weather was terrific and the turnout from the community was excellent!
- Between personal contributions and fund raising efforts, the Heart of the City Team **collected almost \$1,000** for the American Heart Association. Our team represented **10 Divisions** and joining us was **Councilwoman Tameika Isaac Devine!!**



Councilwoman Tameika Isaac Devine, far left, and Missy Caughman, far right, the City’s Budget Director and Heart Walk Team Captain, pose with members of the Heart of the City Walkers.

- Through our financial support of the Heart Walk, we are not only helping hearts in our community, but we are also helping the American Heart Association improve patient care, fund lifesaving research, and educate adults and children at risk for developing cardiovascular disease.
- The American Heart Association is our partner in building a healthier life. They are with us:
  - when we REACH FOR HEALTHY heart-checked options in the grocery store.
  - when A LOVED ONE'S LIFE IS SAVED by bypass surgery that evolved from research we funded.
  - when 12 MILLION AMERICANS are trained in CPR each year.
  - when we OPEN OUR MEDICINE CABINETS and reach for medication that helps lower our cholesterol.
  - when our CHILDREN DRINK WATER OR MILK at school instead of sugar-filled soda that the AHA advocated to get out of children's reach.

### **EVERBRIDGE/CITIZEN ALERT SYSTEM**

- The Everbridge/Citizen Alerts System recently expanded to include the City's boil water advisory notifications.
  - Citizens have the ability to choose which alerts they would like and choose where CRA sends the alert. At any time, citizens can modify their alert preferences through their online profile.
    - Alerts can be sent to: home phone, business phone, cell phone, text message, email, telecommunication devices for the hearing impaired, and many more.
- Boil Water Advisories and Repeals
  - If 25 or fewer customers are affected, door hangers will be issued.
  - If more than 25 customers are affected, a media advisory will be issued and posted to City's website.
  - Affected hospitals or other water distribution systems will receive BWA notifications.



- Click [HERE](#) to view the Everbridge/Citizen Alerts System slideshow.



## **POLICE DEPARTMENT**

- The Columbia Police Department continues to make tremendous strides in several key areas of crime prevention and reduction across the city.
- According to the Crime Analysis Unit, the city has benefited from an overall crime reduction of 14.9% in offenses including armed robbery, burglary, motor vehicle thefts and larcenies. The decrease in crime can be attributed to increased patrols in areas of higher crime incidents, officers' use of intelligence led and predictive policing capabilities and citizens' assistance in reporting crimes and suspicious activity.
- In February, the Columbia Police Department began the implementation phase of a Smart Policing grant that will target repeat burglary locations in the Hyatt Park Community. Officers will partner with the community to educate the residents on preventing residential burglaries (Target Hardening) and conduct crime analysis reviews in order to follow burglary trends in the area. Residents will have the opportunity to get a home alarm system installed by CPD officers that will deter repeat burglary offenses.
- The Columbia Police Department has partnered with the Parks & Recreation Department to host this year's 'Youth Violence Prevention Week.' Activities such as a Vigil of Remembrance, violence prevention fair, and a Town Hall meeting are planned to engage and challenge Columbia's youth to avoid violent tendencies and behaviors. This effort is the first of many to come in 2014 that will specifically address youth violence prevention.

## **FIRE DEPARTMENT**

- Columbia Fire Chief Aubrey D. Jenkins announced on March 18 that the Columbia Fire Department and the Columbia Firefighter's Association once again were awarded for the highest fund raising MDA Boot Drive in the Southeast by collecting over \$132,000.
- The Columbia Fire Department held the annual MDA Boot Drive on Wednesday, March 19th – Friday, March 21st.
- Chief Jenkins and Logan Moore, Midlands MDA Ambassador kicked off this year's campaign by passing around the boot to City Council and Staff during the March 7th City Council meeting. Chief Jenkins said, "This partnership has collected over \$2.3 million in



the past 14 years and we could not have accomplished that without the citizens of the City of Columbia and Richland County.

- Tara Heil, Executive Director of MDA of the Midlands, stated, “MDA is proud to partner with the brave men and women of the Columbia Fire Department and work together to impact the lives of the families living with neuromuscular disease in the Midlands.”
- Though the Columbia Fire Department’s relationship with the Muscular Dystrophy Association goes back for more than 50 years, the Department’s dedication and commitment to the Boot Drive is inspired by Taylor Lever McEntire grandson of CFD Battalion Chief Tommy Taylor, who was stricken with Spinal Muscular Atrophy. Taylor’s spirit continues to be a driving force behind the boot drive that has helped families throughout the Midlands and has risen over \$2.3 million in the past 14 years.
- Taylor was an honorary member of the Columbia Fire Department, the South Carolina Fireman’s Association and the Professional Firefighters’ Local 793 of Columbia, S.C. He also was the spokesperson for MDA and the Firefighters. He was MDA’s South Carolina Goodwill Ambassador and spoke at many events to help raise monies for the Muscular Dystrophy Association. He was an Easter Seal’s State Representative and helped raise money for the Buck A Cup campaign. He was the recipient of the first annual Taylor McEntire Courage Award, which is awarded to a CFD recruit at graduation.  
\*Recent promotion ceremonies for recruits will be discussed in next month’s Spotlight.



(L-R) CFD Engineer Victor Kemper, MDA Goodwill Ambassador Brooklynn Santos and CFD Captain Steven Buff

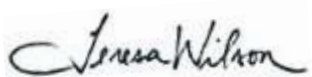
- MDA is the nonprofit health agency dedicated to curing muscular dystrophy, ALS and

related diseases by funding worldwide research. The Association also provides comprehensive health care and support services, advocacy and education. MDA is funded almost entirely by individual private contributions and cooperating organizations. Only nine percent of every dollar collected is spent on administrative costs.

- The Columbia Fire Department promoted approximately 80 firefighters. Those promoted consisted of 1 Battalion Chief, 28 Captains, 14 Engineers, and 37 Senior Firefighters. Click [HERE](#) to view photos from the Columbia Fire Department 2014 Promotional Ceremony.

Please do not hesitate to contact me with your concerns, suggestions and hopes for our City. I take pleasure in my service to each of you!

All my best,



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